



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Lee Holloway

Chairman of the Board

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CHAIRMAN HOLLOWAY STATEMENT ON MENTAL HEALTH

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway released the following statement regarding the County Board's recent policy decision to build a mental health complex on the Milwaukee County Grounds:

"Milwaukee County is taking an important first step in building a new mental health facility on the County Grounds. Anyone who has read the resolution we approved last week knows that we are moving forward with modernizing the delivery of mental health care. This resolution sets no parameters for the size or exact location of a new facility, nor does it specify the number of beds. But this legislation does set into motion a process whereby a Study Committee will gather input from experts, policy makers and members of the community. All stakeholders will have the opportunity to present ideas and opinions on the future of our mental health program.

"I visited mental health facilities in Pennsylvania in the early 90s as Chairman of the County Board's Health and Human Needs Committee, so I am well aware of what has been happening there. The policy we have adopted does not preclude small facilities that could be eligible to receive Medicaid funding. It does, however, preclude continuing to operate far into the future in the current over-large, outdated and expensive mental health hospital on the County Grounds.

"While we are already transitioning to a strong community-based care model, there will continue to be a need for an inpatient mental health facility, especially for individuals that pose a danger to the community. At the same time, I am continuing to explore alternative modes of mental health services that make sense. It's clear that the mental health model is changing, and we must and will change with the times."

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